

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**JULY 11, 2006**

The Emergency Management Advisory Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, July 11, 2006 at 8:05 A.M. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Advisory Council Members present were: Chairman Jimmie Kesterson, Vice Chairman Nathan Miller, Carol Shelby, John Withers, County Councilmember Ronald L. Fruitt, and Commissioner Ruth E. Shedd. Also present: Director Mark Kirby, Deputy Director Tim Batta, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr. (Advisory Council Members Mike Kyger, Dave Reagan, Garry Smith, and John Walker were absent.)

Chairman Jimmie Kesterson called the meeting to order.

***Approval of Minutes***

- Councilmember Fruitt moved to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2006 Meeting as distributed, seconded by Ms Shelby; motion carried.

***Budget/Finance***

Director Kirby noted the Garage Supplies line item is 59% spend due to high fuel costs. He said it may be necessary to request an additional appropriation before the end of the year.

***All Hazards Warning Protocols***

Director Kirby distributed the final version of the Protocols and noted two changes.

1. The title changed from "Community Warning Protocols" to "All Hazards Warning Protocols" which he thinks is a more appropriate title.
2. "Any 'all clear' will come via those same media outlets" was added for clarification.

During the latest tornado sighting at Odell, Director Kirby stated he activated the sirens and notified WASK Radio and WLFI TV within 90 seconds so he is at a loss to explain why the media delayed public notification. He said a possible explanation is because it occurred on a weekend and they may not have fully briefed their weekend staffs on procedures to follow.

Chairman Kesterson suggested adding the date to the document for future reference.

- Commissioner Shedd moved to accept the All Hazards Warning Protocols for Tippecanoe County Emergency Management as of July 11, 2006, seconded by Ms Shelby.

Mr. Miller said he doesn't think the media knows where they fit into the Protocols and this has caused some confusion. Director Kirby responded he has worked with WASK and WLFI to improve communication since he became Director in January 2005. As a result, WASK installed a Claxton in their hallways that is activated throughout the building when he calls their hot line. DJs have been given written protocols. WLFI installed a hot line in their weather room that sets off a signal there as well as in the control room. Director Kirby said he plans to meet with all the media and present this document.

In support of the protocols' process, Ms Shelby commented that she and Mr. Reagan happened to be at the TEMA Office recently when severe weather came in and described the situation as organized chaos. She said all phones, including cell phones, were ringing, the radios were going but the TV was reporting nothing. All were taking calls and evaluating the situation which turned out to be severe straight line winds. Director Kirby said that, although there were 50-60 mph wind gusts, he thinks the decision to not activate the sirens was correct.

Chairman Kesterson said he was hoping to see more detail in the document with specific criteria for activating the sirens and notifying the media. Director Kirby responded he thinks specifics should be in a separate “in-house” document. Chairman Kesterson then suggested adding a bullet in the document stating there is another document for in-house use only

- With no further discussion, the motion carried.

### ***Inventory***

Director Kirby said he is not ready to present TEMA’s inventory today as requested but will present it next month.

### ***Odell Tornado discussion resumed***

Referring to the earlier discussion of the tornado sighted at Odell, Director Kirby pointed out that no watch or warning was in effect from the National Weather Service but the tornado was literally at his backdoor when he activated the sirens. He cited this instance as a good example of when zoning of the sirens is appropriate. To that end, he reported the Commissioners are recommending approval of \$40,000 in the 2007 Budget to facilitate zoning of sirens.

### ***Volunteer Activities***

- TEMA provided portable lights for the investigation scene of the recent house fire in Wea Township that claimed the life of volunteer firefighter Steven Smith. The volunteers also helped with logistics during the funeral.
- The volunteers’ 501c3 papers are with the attorney from Stuart & Branigin after they were returned by the State for minor corrections.
- The volunteers will help with traffic control at the entrances to the 4-H Fair that will be held July 22-29. The Mobile command Center will be there to coordinate communications between TEMA, the Sheriff’s Department, Fire Departments, and EMS.
- The volunteers assisted with traffic control during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration at Purdue University.

### ***Haz-Mat Team Report: Deputy Director Tim Batta***

TEMA’s Haz-Mat Team had no responses, but the Regional Haz-Mat Team responded to an incident at Carroll High School in Flora where pool chemicals were incorrectly mixed and put off chlorine gas. Units from Lafayette, Frankfort, Delphi, and TEMA over packed the container and controlled the situation. Director Kirby said, in his opinion, the Regional Team worked in absolute concert and the TEAM was able to facilitate every request. He said the Fire Marshal’s Office expressed more than once how impressed they were with the way the Team performed. Although TEMA’s Haz-Mat Team got the call, Deputy Director Batta was responsible for pulling the Regional Team together for the response.

Commissioner Shedd said the Commissioners appreciated the notification that the equipment was going out-of-county for a response.

### ***Old Business***

Commissioner Shedd announced that Attorney Dave Luhman will no longer attend TEMA meetings but will be on call if the Advisory Council needs his counsel regarding a topic.

Director Kirby reported that, due to wet weather, the Wainwright siren has not been replaced nor has the siren at Romney been moved.

### ***New Business***

Ms Shelby reported she attended a meeting of the Indiana Emergency Response Commission yesterday in South Bend. They learned that, as of July 1, ethics training will be required for any government agency appointed by the Governor. This new law will apply locally to the LEPC. She also reported that the State Haz-Mat Director, Mike Biggler has a project to distribute 800 mhz radios, mobile and portable, with a common frequency throughout the State to Regional Haz-Mat Teams. Director Kirby interjected that he requested 2 of the 8 radios that will be coming to Lafayette Fire Department for TEMA's Haz-Mat Team. Lastly, Larry Hanby reported he is writing SOPs for implementation of NIMS (National Incident management System) across the State. She noted that Tippecanoe County has already adopted NIMS.

Chairman Kesterson asked Director Kirby is NIMS was implemented during the response to Carroll High School. Director Kirby responded that, because they were in such a small area, it was not fully implemented as it would have been if the responders had been spread out in different locations.

Mr. Miller asked if Tippecanoe County will be receiving Homeland Security Grant monies in 2006. Director Kirby responded TEMA was invited to participate for the Grant in the amount of \$680,000. Although the Grant allows the purchase of vehicles, the State has changed its policy and no vehicle purchases will be allowed.

Mr. Miller asked if there is a list of all emergency equipment in the County. Director Kirby responded that, despite the reluctance of some agencies to publish their equipment list, work is underway to set up an on-line data base of resource equipment throughout the County that can be used for any emergency.

### ***August Meeting***

The next meeting of the TEMA Advisory Council will be held at 8:00 A.M., Tuesday, August 8, 2006 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building.

### ***Adjournment***

Upon Commissioner Shedd's motion and Councilmember Fruitt's second, the meeting adjourned.

Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor